

45 South Main St.
Mannheim, Pa. 17545
December 7, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of December 4.

I'll send a Xerox copy of the 1746 Pennsylvania note to you as soon as I have acquired the note from the owner. I'm having some difficulty obtaining the 1744 and 1745 Pennsylvania notes but I have hopes that the owner of the notes will soon decide just what material he wants and I'll order.

If your Volvont Printer is as good as the others I've checked, I too doubt that you would be able to use the one that I have just obtained today. My collection of notes will bring red on both sides but it does also have two small pinholes defects.

I visited the Ephrata Cloister yesterday to see if I could obtain some information that might be of help to you in solving the mystery surrounding the February 28, 1777 Continental issue. I spoke to Mr. Stauffer, the owner who occasionally operates the printing press at the Cloister, but he was not able to furnish very much information. Mr. Stauffer is a fine old gentleman of 73 who knows a great deal about the printing trade and about the Seventh Day Adventists. I also spoke to Mr. Kraft, curator of the Cloister, and again I was able to learn very little that might verify your statement. I intend to do some research on the question and if evidence exists that will verify your original belief, I'm sure that I will find it. I have a friend who is a recognized authority on Lancaster County's early history and I intend to enlist his help. I'll notify you as soon as we have information of importance.

The value of 1½ Yorktown notes that you have placed on my Maryland note is satisfactory, but I prefer that we consummate a trade for your two Yorktown notes on a basis of cash plus my Maryland note. I am primarily interested in Pennsylvania and Continental notes and this plus my dislike for having negotiations drag on prompts me to ask that we complete one exchange at a time. Suppose we place a dollar value on your Yorktown notes of \$250.00 each, or \$500.00 for the two notes.

This would mean that my Maryland note would be valued at \$375.00. I propose that I send my Maryland note and a check for \$125.00 to you and that you in turn send the two Yorktown notes to me. If after we have examined the notes we are both satisfied with what we have received our exchange may then be considered complete. I believe that the dollar value is very fair.

I spoke to John Ford a few days ago concerning trading a shekel of the First Jewish Revolt to him and I expect that trade to take some time to complete. Also, he would like to have the Vermont Britannia if I decide to part with it, and again a lengthy negotiation can be expected. I traded a Blake and Company ingot to Mr. Ford two years ago and that took quite some time to accomplish. I'm sure that you can see how frustrating it is when one tries to consummate a trade for two early Pennsylvania notes, a trade for two Yorktown notes, a trade involving a shekel, a trade involving a Ryder 13, and a trade for an exceedingly rare Pennsylvania note and the progress is very, very slow. The rare Pennsylvania is one that I just discovered as being available.

Please give some thought to my proposed exchange and let me hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Dosler
James R. Dosler

JRH:lc

80 South Main St.
Manheim, Pa. 17545
January 28, 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for your letter of January 24.

I am herewith sending to you a photograph of the Blake & Company ingot. The photograph is not the one that I had ordered from the photographer but I think that it will be satisfactory. My artist-photographer friend has been very busy and has not yet been able to make other photographs. The 8 X 10 photograph is from my file but you may keep it.

I acquired the Blake & Company ingot from a person who had been a dealer in antiques for close to 60 years. He had obtained the ingot from a noted New York City dealer in antiques, Mr. Weil. The ingot was used by both dealers as a paperweight and they knew nothing of its origin or value. I hope that the photograph will aid you with your research.

My telephone is listed under my father's name, Lester W. Hosler, 717-665-2798. My family lives in Florida so there is no one at my home to answer the telephone when I'm away. During the past few weeks I have been very busy with archery and numismatic activities and I have been away from my home almost ever evening.

I appreciate your offering to reduce the amount of cash involved in my proposed exchange but the amount of cash had no bearing on my decision to reject the notes. I collect only choice uncirculated notes and the two Yorktown notes just did not come up to my requirements.

I'm sorry that we are not able to consummate an exchange for my Maryland note, but perhaps we have both been too difficult in the matter. At any rate, good luck with your collection, and I'll notify you if I get the 1744 and 1746 Pennsylvania notes.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Hosler



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 10, 1969

Mr. James H. Hosler
30 South Main St.
Hanover, Penna. 17545

Dear Mr. Hosler:

Thank you very much for the superb picture
of the Blake & Company bar.

I assume that it had no markings on the
side or on the back.

You did not state who the dealer was from
whom you obtained the item or the date you obtained
it and I thought it would be better if I have that
information in my file. If you can add these two
items of information to my file I will be most appreci-
ative.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

80 South Main St.
Manheim, Pa. 17545
February 17, 1969

Mr. Eric W. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

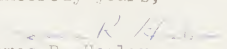
Dear Mr. Newman:

I'm glad that the photograph is satisfactory and I hope that it arrived undamaged.

I obtained the ingot from Mrs. David Missimer in 1963. The ingot has a letter "R" stamped on the upper end, but the sides, the lower end, and the back are plain. The fact that the ingot does not have engraving or stamping on the back was the reason Mr. Ford gave for being very interested in obtaining the piece for his collection.

Trusting that all is well with you, I am,

Sincerely yours,


James B. Wosler

JRH/lc

New Mint head replace Philip N. Diehl

Now a good time to change Mint
leadership? See related editorial
on Page 10.

ted post of executive deputy director — the
in the Mint's executive hierarchy — Diehl
as counselor to Secretary of the Treasury
and chief of staff at the Department
of the Treasury.

John Bentsen's staff soon after President
Clinton took office for his first term, Diehl had been
of the Senate Finance Committee and
director for nearly two years to Sen.
Bentsen named Diehl as executive deputy
Aug. 13, 1993.

announced his intention to nominate Diehl
director on Dec. 22, 1993. The Senate, by
consent, approved Diehl's appointment
ear term on June 24, 1994.

is tenure as executive deputy director and
director, Diehl has had his hand in chairing the
commemorative Coin Advisory Commit-
tee's approval of legislation eliminating
essentially appointed positions of chief
and assayer at the four Mint production
and conversion of the four Mint superin-
tendents from presidential appointments to
managers.

He also turned around shipping times of
the products and offered more options with
mintages, thus creating secondary markets.

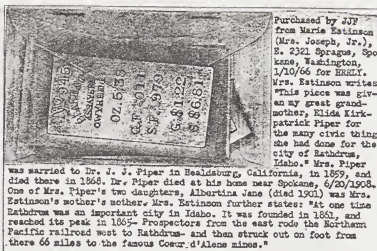
He also has been instrumental in pressing for
the proliferation of numismatic com-
memorative coins and working for the new Mint
under construction. **CW**

Successor takes over

net commerce development,"
Summers said. "Along the way,
he has transformed the Mint into
one of the most progressive, cus-
tomer-focused enterprises in
America.

Under his leadership, the Mint
has been recognized as a leader in
the Clinton administrations rein-
vention of government and the
Mint's labor-management part-
nership number. Those made after 1864 carry as small federal tax
stamp.

"Philip Diehl has permanently
changed the nation's coinage
through the successful 50 State
Quarters Program. I am pleased
that he has agreed to continue as
director beyond the end of his
five-year term to ensure a smooth
transition as the Susan B. Antho-
ny dollar is replaced early next
year with the Sacagawea dollar
coin.



AMONG THE evidence John J. Ford cites for defending the authenticity of Western assay bars he has handled since the 1950s are his records. He said he bought this bar in 1966 from the great-granddaughter of a woman who received it for her civic duties.

Origin of Western assay bars fascinates Ford over the years

By Beth Deisher

COIN WORLD Staff

Where did the Western assay bars (ingots) that made their way into the U.S. marketplace primarily in the 1950s and 1960s come from?

It's the question John J. Ford Jr. has been asked many times. And it's a question he believes he's answered many times, both in conversation and in print. But it's also one he loves to answer, because the answer provides a slice of modern numismatic history still relatively unknown by many of today's collectors.

First, Ford says, one must understand the terminology.

A Western assay bar is a gold or silver ingot of varying purity made by any one of hundreds of mid to late 19th century assaying firms located in California, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona and Idaho.

Most are called "unparted bars" because they have less than 900 parts gold, which means they also contain high amounts of silver and smaller amounts of trace elements found in the ore when it was dug out the ground. Bars containing .900 fine or higher amounts of gold are called gold bars.

Most of the Western assay bars are rectangular and were made between 1849 and the early 1900s. Their primary function was to turn gold dust, gold nuggets and silver into a convenient, transportable and convertible form. Usually the bar carries the name of the firm that made it and is stamped with the fineness of gold or silver. Also stamped on it are its weight, value in dollars and cents, and an inventory or serial number. Those made after 1864 carry as small federal tax stamp.

Ford says his first encounter with a Western assay bar was in 1952 in New York City.

"I saw my first real ingot in March of 1952, when I went up to see Wayte Raymond in his office on Madison Avenue and 59th Street. I was soliciting consignments for the 1952 American Numismatic Association sale. He had a little Blake & Co. ingot, which was in an envelope marked 'Blake & Co. IT - Indian Territory.' It didn't take me long to figure out that that was wrong because there were no mines in Indian Territory except coal mines."

The Blake & Co. ingot was placed in the 1952 ANA sale where it brought "\$50 or so," Ford recalls. "It was bought by a guy named Don Keefer of Chicago."



Ford

OWYHEE

CW
9/6/99 p.3

According to a Coin World interview with John J. Ford, Jr. published 9/6/99 p 3 Ford's first encounter with a western assay bar was ~~in the~~ at the office of Wayne Raymond in New York City in March 1952 when he was shown a "Blake & Co IT" ingot ~~marked~~ ^{marked} Indian with ~~marking~~ in an envelope marked with "Indian Territory". He realized that ^{location} was ~~an~~ an error and apparently ~~did not~~ ^{input} the ~~error~~ was sold ^{of} ~~question~~ ^{summer} that ~~year~~ to Don Keefer of Chicago for "\$50 or so". ~~That "IT" stood for Idaho Territory~~ ^{that "IT" stood for Idaho Territory} ~~was not indicated~~ ^{may not have been known} ~~It was not stated as to whether~~ ^{yes mentioned previously} ~~or not.~~

whether it was Idaho Territory ~~or not~~ ^{at that time} or not.

In November 1952 Ford was at ^{the} office at ~~Don Keefer's~~ ^{Don Keefer's} Com Co in New York City when he purchased a Parsons & Co \$20 bar for \$225 ~~and then~~ ^{from Paul Franklin} ~~from Paul Franklin~~ ^{major} ~~this price was soon resold to Don Keefer~~ ^{by the} ~~Don Keefer~~ ^{Don Keefer}. Keefer died in 1954 ^{including the \$20 bar} ~~and Ford purchased~~ ^{the Ford - Franklin} ~~Keefe's~~ ^{Keefe's} proven gold collection ~~from his widow~~ ^{from his widow} ~~relationship continued for many years thereafter~~ ^{relationship continued for many years thereafter}

(Francis W. Blake) (Owyhee Idaho Territory)

Blake Idaho appeared in
Elder 56 1936
rec'd to Raymond in 1952

in 1954
G Blake Assayer

Schulman Sale
6/27/73



MAKING
ASSAYED
OZ. 3.11
G.F. .011
S.F. .979
G. \$0.70
S. \$5



379



453